

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (MORGAN, ROBERT)
SUBJECT: CODEL MORGAN: PANAMA WRAP-UP

SUMMARY: CODEL MORGAN SPENT A PRODUCTIVE AND INFORMATIVE
VISIT TO PANAMA FROM DECEMBER 26 TO 30. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN, HIS ASSISTANT MR. WALTER RICKS
AND MILITARY ESCORT MAJOR RICHARD PAHLAND HAD A HARD-
WORKING, PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL VISIT TO PANAMA FROM
DECEMBER 26 TO DECEMBER 30. DURING THE THREE WORKING
DAYS OF THE VISIT, THE SENATOR AND HIS PARTY MET WITH
AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS, HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE
PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT, PANAMANIAN AND AMERICAN BANKING
AND BUSINESS LEADERS, OFFICIALS OF SOUTHCOM AND PANCANAL,
INCLUDING BOTH GEN. MCAULIFFE AND GOVERNOR PARFITT, AND
AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF THE CANAL ZONE. SENATOR'S WILLINGNESS
TO ENDURE BUSY SCHEDULE AND LONG HOURS ENABLED HIM TO
EXPLORE PANAMA QUESTION FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW.
(SCHEDULE AND GUEST LISTS BEING SENT ARA/PAN, GUTHRIE.)

2. SENATOR CALLED ON PRESIDENT LAKAS, FOREIGN MINISTER
BOYD AND PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA ON TUESDAY,
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DECEMBER 28. THE VISITS WERE NOT MERELY COURTESY CALLS, BUT
REAL DISCUSSIONS OF U.S. PANAMANIAN PROBLEMS AND PERCEPTIONS.
EMBASSY HAS ALREADY GOTTEN COMMENTS FROM SOME PANAMANIAN
APPRECIATIVE OF THE SENATOR'S INTEREST IN THEIR COUNTRY,
AND HIS OPENNESS IN EXPRESSING HIS OWN VIEWS.

3. SENATOR ALSO GOT THE AMERICAN SIDE OF VARIOUS ISSUES FROM THE EMBASSY, MILITARY AND PANCANAL OFFICIALS, AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN. IN ADDITION, HE SPENT WEDNESDAY EVENING (DECEMBER 29) WITH CANAL ZONE CIVIC COUNCIL LEADERS AND ZONE RESIDENTS (AMONG WHOM WILLIAM DRUMMOND) TO LEARN THEIR VIEWS AND CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY REGARDS CODEL MORGAN'S TRIP TO PANAMA AS A USEFUL, PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE VISIT. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE NOT ONLY THE SENATOR'S INTEREST IN LEARNING ABOUT PANAMA AND OUR RELATIONS WITH IT, BUT THE COURTESY, DECENCY AND OPENNESS HE SHOWED TO ALL DURING HIS STAY. WE HOPE THAT SENATOR MORGAN WILL URGE HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE TO VISIT PANAMA THIS SPRING.
JORDEN

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